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What is it?

National Ecological Observatory Network

NEON was conceived in the late 20th century as an instrument to advance the ability of scientists to examine and understand the interactions between life and the environment at the scale of an entire continent. Since then, technology and research tools have rapidly evolved to support science at a scale that hardly anyone imagined a generation ago.

Hundreds of scientists and engineers have contributed their expertise to plan, design and operate a grand instrument that could harness the power of networked technology to gather and provide high-quality information on interactions between land, life, water and climate across a continent and over the course of a human generation. The insights gleaned from NEON data and tools may inform decisions at the national and community levels that will impact natural resource management and human well-being for generations to come.

NEON

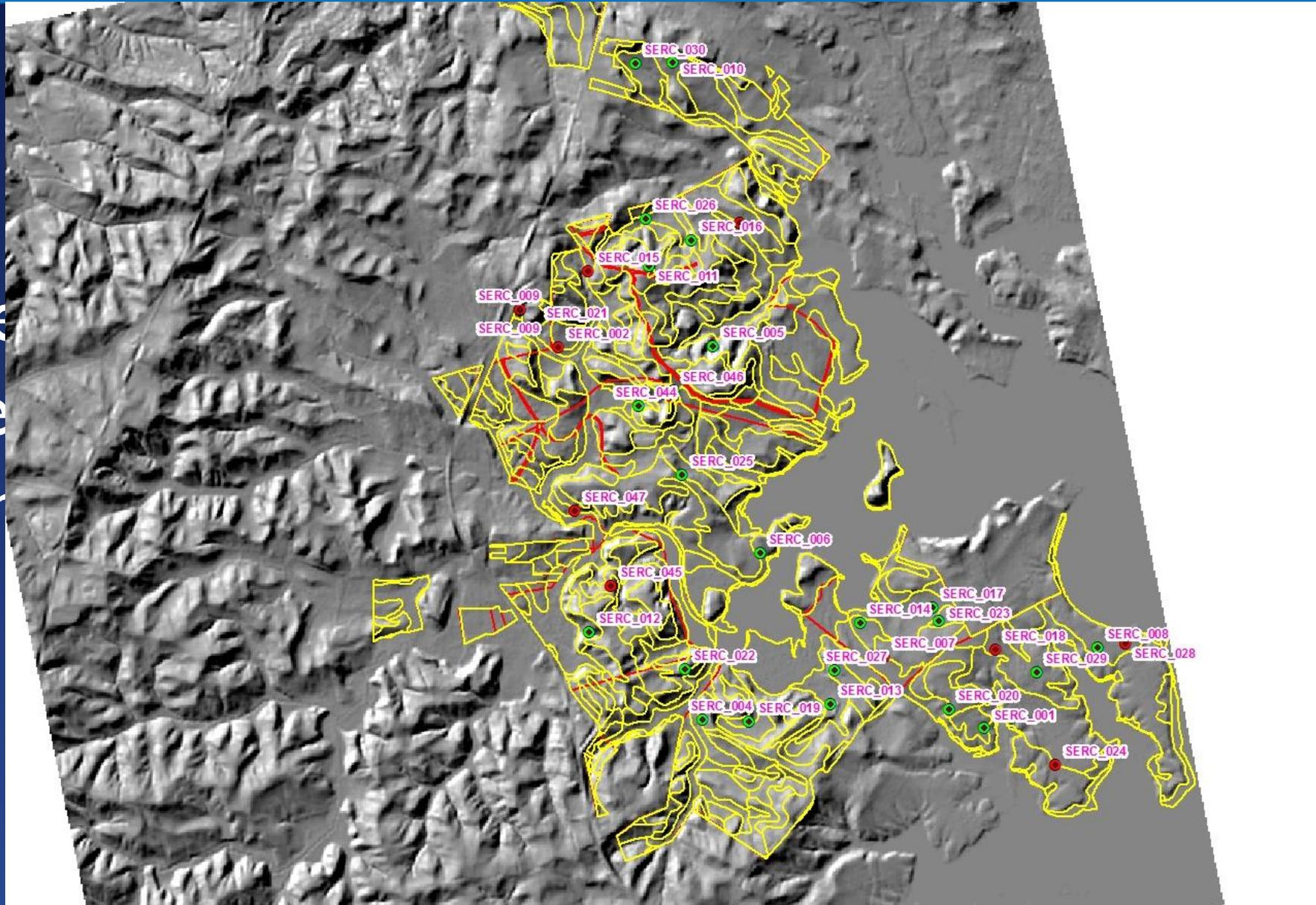


Role of NRCS SSD

- NRCS was contracted by ARS to provide soils info and expertise
- On-Site observations and Lab Sampling to document soil variability



- Site
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soil

Sites assigned to the Region 3



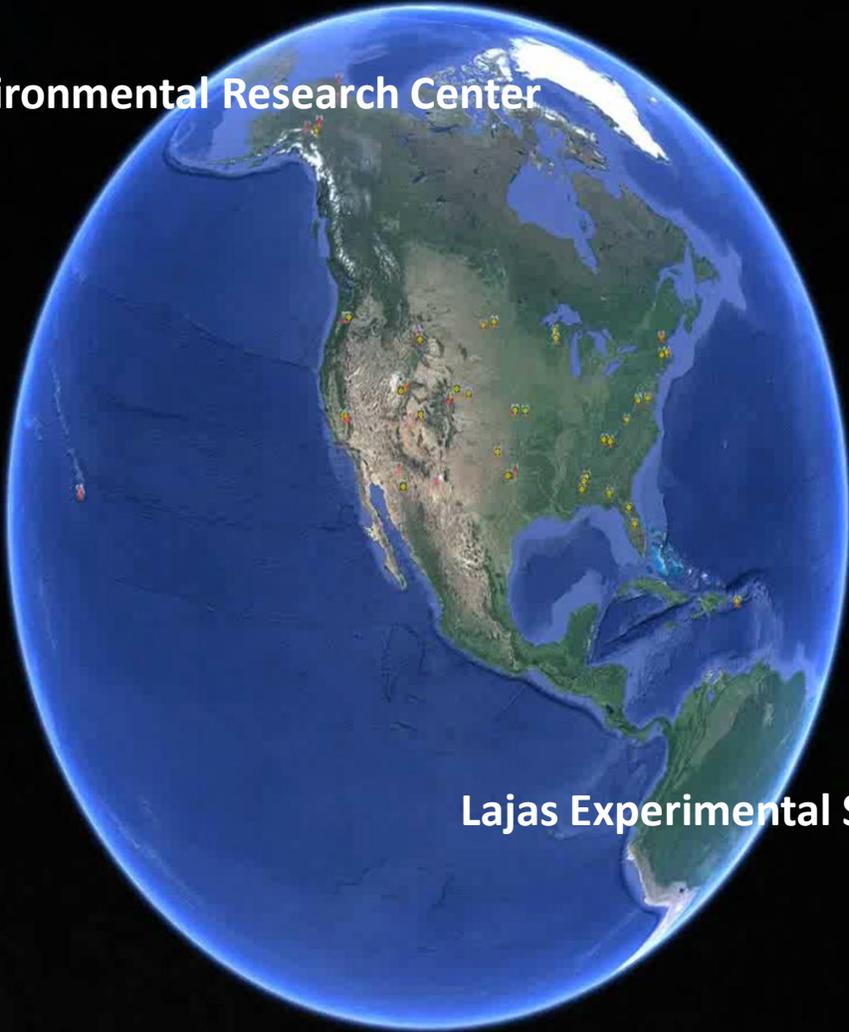
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Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Guanica



Lajas Experimental Station

Google earth

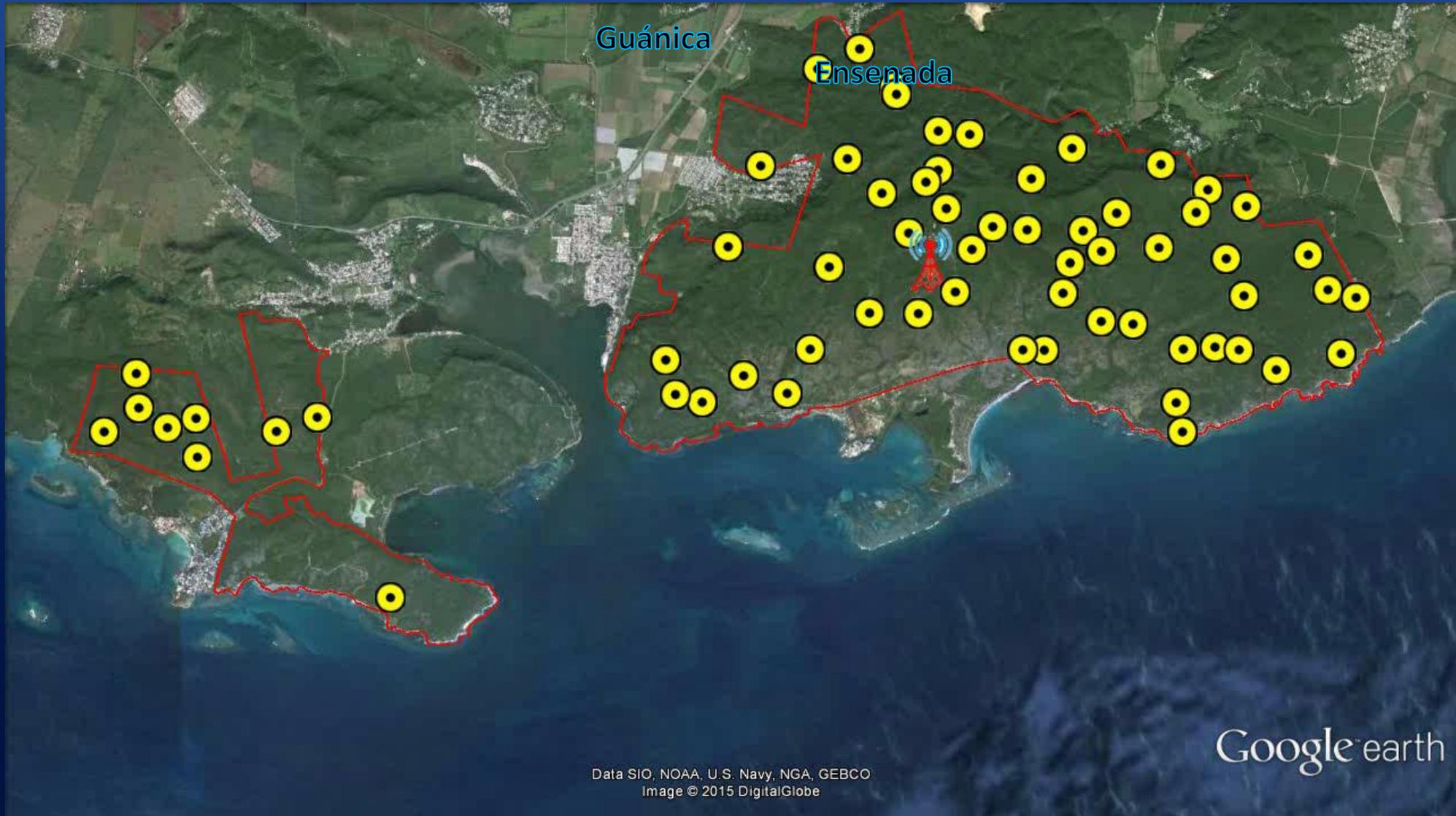
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat
Image IBCAO



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- Once our list of selected sites are approved, plans are made to sample each plot (logistics)
- Meeting with Domain Manager

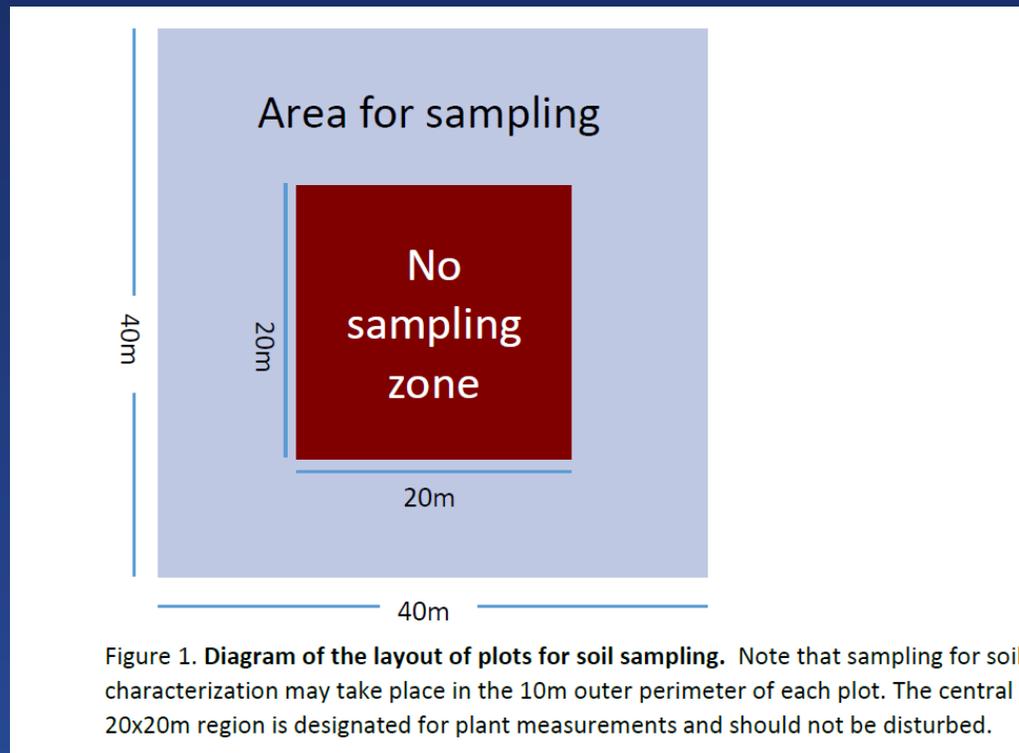


Figure 1. Diagram of the layout of plots for soil sampling. Note that sampling for soil characterization may take place in the 10m outer perimeter of each plot. The central 20x20m region is designated for plant measurements and should not be disturbed.

- Site orientation and sample location is determined

- Plots are sampled via a 1m x 1m x 1m hand dug pit



- Pits are described and sampled to KSSL standards



- Samples are collected and sent to KSSL



What we've learned

Need to meet with Domain manager on site

Logistics is key and one of the biggest challenges

4 person teams, except when dodging rain storms, is best.

Backpacks and radios are great!

You cannot over plan!

You must be able to adapt

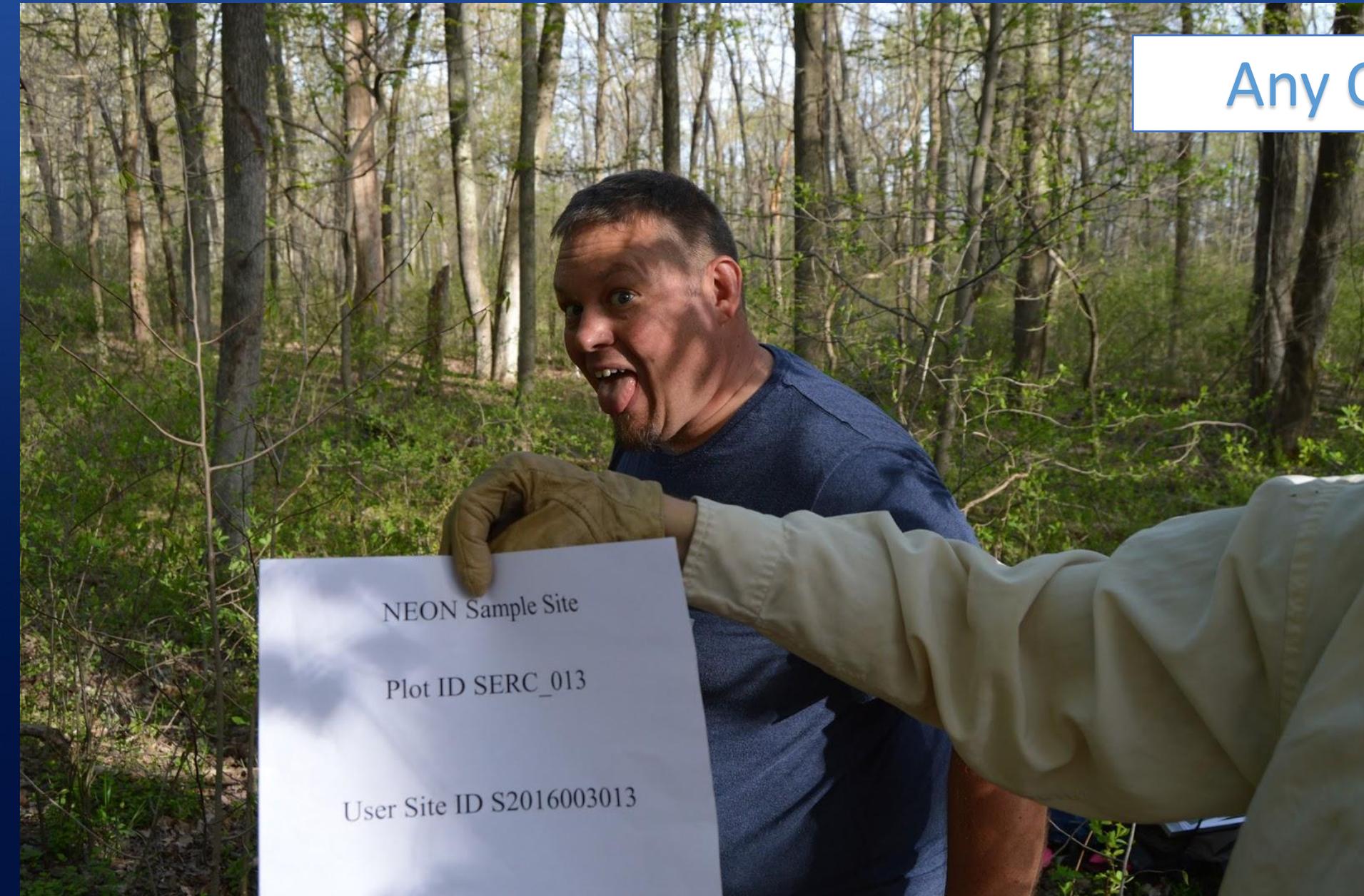


NEON schedule for Region 3

- SERC (Smithsonian Ecological Research Center) near Annapolis Maryland – Completed April, 2016
- Lajas Experimental Station – Late Summer to Fall of 2016
- Guanica Dry Forest - 2017



Any Questions?



NEON Sample Site
Plot ID SERC_013
User Site ID S2016003013



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